

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/807,463

Applicant(s)

KOHRS ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Suzette J. Gherbi

3738

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 4/23/07 and the Terminal Disclaimer filed 5/20/07.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 15-18.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
    1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
    Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
    Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
    of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
    Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David H. Brinkman on 5/9/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Cancel claim 13**

**Cancel claim 14**

**Claim 12 has been amended to read:**

A distraction spacer for placing an implant into a disk space between opposing vertebrae having opposing end plates separated by a predetermined degree of lordosis, said distraction spacer comprising: a main body; first and second diametrically opposed surfaces having a leading end and a trailing with a longitudinal axis passing therethrough said first and second opposed surfaces extending predominantly in the direction of the longitudinal axis and said first and

second diametrically opposed surfaces converging towards said longitudinal axis from said trailing end to said leading end; wherein said first and second diametrically opposed surfaces are flat surfaces.

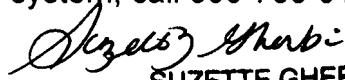
**Add new claim 18:**

A distraction spacer for placing an implant into a disk space between opposing vertebrae having opposing end plates separated by a predetermined degree of lordosis, said distraction spacer comprising: a main body; first and second diametrically opposed surfaces having a leading end and a trailing with a longitudinal axis passing therethrough; said first and second opposed surfaces extending predominantly in the direction of the longitudinal axis said first and second diametrically opposed surfaces converging towards said longitudinal axis from said trailing end to said leading end; wherein said main body is a frusto-conical shape and said first and second diametrically opposed surfaces are portions of said frusto-conical shape

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzette J. Gherbi whose telephone number is 571-272-4751. The examiner can normally be reached on Maxi-flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
SUZETTE GHERBI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

09 May 2007